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LENINGRAD ENGINEER GROUP PROSECUTED FOR EMBEZZLEMENT

The Leningrad Public Prosecutor has revealed facts concerning a group of engineering and technical workers who misappropriated large sums of State funds in 1945-46. The center of the group was "Ionitomash" (Leningrad Division of the Scientific Engineering and Technical Society of Machine Building). M. Parnes and B. Regel'man, who wore attached to the society, changed it int to a commercial enterprise, using State funds for mercenary purposes. Representatives of "Louitomash" concluded agreements with plants for various types of work for which they fraudelently inflated the cost. The cash "reserves" which were accommulated by this method were then divided among the group. The group was also guilty of drawing up fictitious trade agreements and forging signatures.

Thirty-four defendants were brought into court for a trial which lasted 32 months. The actual loss to the State was found to be 765,000 rubles. The organizer of the group, Parnes, misappropriated 186,000 rubles by himself and also obtained a substantial share of the 300,000 rubles misapproprinted together with the rest of the group. Kuz'min, who worked in the Neva Machine-Building Plant, obtained money from 15 fictitious trade aga Je ments, counterfeiting a certificate issued by a certain institute. G. S. The state of the s workers in plants, and V. Komlev, deputy-chairman of "Valtomash" (All-Union Scientific Engineering and Technical Society of Machine Building), were each sentenced to 10 years' loss of freedom. Five defendants were sentenced to 5 years' loss of freedom, seven were sentenced to loss of freedom for various terms, am the remaining defendants were sentenced to corrective labor.

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